

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An information processing~~ A content distribution system comprising:

a seller information processing apparatus;

a buyer information processing apparatus;

an escrow agent computer; and

a content distribution intermediary system connected to the seller information processing apparatus, the buyer information processing apparatus, and the escrow agent computer, wherein the content distribution intermediary system comprises:

input means for receiving first media content information ~~via a network~~ from [[a]] ~~the~~ seller information processing apparatus;

recording means for recording the first media content information;

output means for outputting the first media content information to [[a]] ~~the~~ buyer information processing apparatus ~~via the network~~;

wherein the input means is further operable to receive second information indicating the purchase of rights of predetermined media content from the buyer information processing apparatus ~~via the network~~;

settlement means for settling a purchase-and-sale contract concerning the rights of the predetermined media content based on the received second information; and

an escrow system management server for generating escrow processing information about the purchase-and-sale contract for ~~[[an]]~~ the escrow agent computer and transmitting the escrow processing information to the escrow agent computer;

wherein the input means is further operable to receive a delivery status of the media content from a physical distribution agent and to receive a money transfer completion message from the escrow agent; and

wherein the recording means is further operable to record the delivery status of the media content and the money transfer completion message.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~An information processing~~ A content distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the settlement means is further operable to prepare and store a document associated with the purchase-and-sale contract.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~An information processing~~ A content distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the input means is further operable to receive information indicating a condition of the media content desired by the buyer from the buyer information processing apparatus ~~via the network~~;

wherein the ~~information processing system~~ content distribution intermediary further comprises search means for retrieving media content information satisfying the condition; and

wherein the output means is further operable to provide the retrieved media content information to the buyer information processing apparatus.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~An information processing~~ A content distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the input means is further operable to receive information indicating the seller of the media content from the seller information processing apparatus ~~via the network~~;

wherein the input means is further operable to receive information indicating the buyer of the media content from the buyer information processing apparatus; and

wherein the recording means is further operable to record the third information indicating the seller of the media content and the information indicating the buyer of the media content.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~An information processing~~ A content distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the rights of the media content to be sold and purchased between the seller and the buyer of the media content comprise at least part of: broadcasting rights, licensing rights, and copyright, or all the rights concerning the media content.

6. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising:  
receiving first media content information via a network from a seller information processing apparatus;  
recording the first media content information;  
outputting the first media content information to a buyer information processing apparatus via the network;

receiving second information indicating the purchase of rights of predetermined media content from the buyer information processing apparatus via the network;

settling a purchase-and-sale contract concerning the rights of the predetermined media content based on the received second information;

generating escrow processing information about the purchase-and-sale contract for the media content for processing by an escrow agent;

transmitting the escrow processing information to the escrow agent, wherein the escrow agent tracks status of payment for the media content based on the escrow processing information and generates a money transfer completion message based on the status and the escrow processing information;

receiving a delivery status of the media content from a physical distribution agent;

receiving ~~[[a]]~~ the money transfer completion message from the escrow agent;  
and

recording information about delivery of the media content to the buyer.

7. (Currently Amended) A transaction method for settling a transaction of media content, comprising:

receiving media content information identifying media content to be sold by a seller, and media content rights information;

receiving request information from a buyer, the request information comprising a name of the media content the buyer wants to acquire and information about how the buyer wants to use the media content;

settling the transaction of the media content generated between the seller and the buyer by attaching rights indicated by media content rights information to the identified media content;

selling the identified media content and the attached rights to the seller;

generating escrow processing information about the transaction related to the media content for processing by an escrow agent;

transmitting the escrow processing information to the escrow agent, wherein the escrow agent tracks status of payment for the media content based on the escrow processing information; and

recording information about delivery of the media content to the buyer.

8. (Previously Presented) A transaction method according to claim 7, wherein the media content rights information comprises any one of: broadcasting rights, licensing rights, and copyright of the content.

9. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for use in an information processing intermediary system which is connected via a network to at least one seller information processing apparatus, ~~and~~ to at least one buyer information processing apparatus, and to an escrow agent computer, the method comprising:

receiving first media content information from the seller information processing apparatus;

registering the first media content information;

receiving second media content information, specifying predetermined media content selected from the registered media content and the seller of the media content, from[[,]] the buyer information processing apparatus;

generating a first web page which is viewable by the buyer information processing apparatus, and which displays a message input from the seller information processing apparatus specified by the second media content information, and which receives a message from the buyer to be sent to the seller;

generating a second web page which is viewable by the seller information processing apparatus specified by the second media content information, and which displays a message input from the buyer information processing apparatus outputting the second media content information, and which receives a message from the seller to be sent to the buyer;

maintaining a first site map indicating associations between web pages linked to the first web page, wherein the buyer information processing apparatus jumps to a different web page based on an operation performed on the first web page and the first site map;

controlling the posting of the first web page and the second web page; and  
acquiring the messages input into the first web page and the second web page;  
determining whether the buyer information processing apparatus requested a clip representative of the media content;

generating data to output the clip through the first web page; and  
sending the clip to the buyer information processing apparatus.

10 - 15. (Cancelled)